

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Sergeant Nicholas J. Olivier.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant Nicholas J. Olivier upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Sergeant Olivier; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier was a native of Ruston, graduating from Louisiana Tech University in 2002 and working as a financial adviser for Wells Fargo with plans to return to college as soon as he could to pursue his Master's Degree; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team when his unit was deployed to Iraq in the fall of 2004, telling his family that he was serving where he was needed and that he wanted America to be safe; and

WHEREAS, while Sergeant Olivier loved his family and friends and missed them dearly during his tour of duty in the Iraqi Theater of Operations, he also loved his country, displaying a dedication to this nation at a time when enemies around the world have sworn to harm America and extinguish the bright light of freedom that America carries in a dark and threatening world; and

1 WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier's highest priority was accomplishing his unit's mission
2 and getting the men under his command safely back home to their families and loved ones
3 once their tour was complete and he accomplished this by way of his brave actions and
4 uncommon valor; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier was a true source of inner strength, resolve, and
6 stability to his men who wrote his family to say "someone tried to take Nick away from us,
7 but no one will ever be able to do that. We can see him right now, with his arm around us,
8 telling us it will be all right"; and

9 WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier was 26 years old when he was sent on a foot patrol on
10 February 23, 2005, through the mean streets and back alleys of Baghdad searching for
11 terrorist elements reported to be operating in the area and determined to create havoc,
12 chaos, and disarray in Iraq's struggling democracy; and

13 WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier and his men were attacked by enemy forces who struck
14 their position with an improvised explosive device and a hail of hostile fire, mortally
15 wounding Sergeant Olivier and wounding several other fellow soldiers during the course of
16 the ambush; and

17 WHEREAS, the loss of Sergeant Olivier was almost more than his family and friends
18 could endure, his ultimate sacrifice for his country has made citizens from around the state
19 rally in support of the National Guard's gallant efforts in the war on terror and the liberation
20 of Iraq; and

21 WHEREAS, Sergeant Olivier will forever be remembered by his family, friends, and
22 fellow soldiers as a truly dedicated leader and his sacrifice serves as a reminder that freedom
23 is never free and Americans sometimes must fight to protect the freedoms and liberties its
24 citizens now enjoy.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
26 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
27 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guard Sergeant
28 Nicholas. J. Olivier.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
30 transmitted to his wife, Angelle, and his mother of Sergeant Nicholas J. Olivier.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guard Sergeant Nicholas J. Olivier.